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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

Volume 70

June 1988



SUNDOWN SOCIAL BY THE BAY MEET THE MEMBERS

Who are the members of GGAS? Who are the more than 5000 people that comprise the second largest Audubon chapter in the nation? Some of us lead field trips, near and far, to Arrowhead Marsh or to Kenya, help others of us to identify dunlins or weaverbirds. Many of us regularly call the rare bird alert to find out if the Emperor Goose still resides at Alameda. Fewer GGAS members actively work to protect the environment by writing letters to government officials and by attending pertinent hearings. Some of us are backyard birders, feeding towhees and finches with birdseed we sell, while others are armchair birders, ogling the exquisite bird photos in our national magazine. We see a small yet steady group of us at our monthly meetings. More of us participate in the Christmas birdcounts. Some GGAS members are generous with their time and money, devoting hours of volunteer work to making gorgeous quilts that benefit Mono Lake and our wetlands, or contributing goodly sums to Audubon Canyon Ranch and to our legal defense fund. Whoever we are, whatever we do, we care passionately for birds, for the environment, for Nature.

Unfortunately, we don't know one another as well as we could. For the sake of a stronger chapter, we need to know us better, not only to improve communication within for a more effective organization, but also to enjoy our membership in it.

To encourage more of us to attend our annual membership meeting, we are holding a sundown social on Friday, June 17, from 7 to 9, at the charmingly appointed and strategically located Lyford House, at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. in Tiburon. Please come to what promises to be a special event, complete with delicious cheeses and desserts; with wine, soft beverages, and coffee; with live music; with a spectacular view of the Bay. Above all, come and meet your fellow members: the board members, the field trip leaders, expert birders, volunteers. We especially invite you to meet our guests of honor, the recipients of our conservation awards: George Peyton for our in-chapter award, and California Attorney General John Van de Kamp for our out-of-chapter award.

A modest charge of \$7.50 is asked, to cover our expenses and to benefit the Richardson Bay Center and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Please (fill out the reserva-

tion form in the back of the *Gull*) or call Barbara at 843-2222 for reservations.

—Tom White, Program Chairman

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Friday-Sunday, June 3-5—Birding by ear in Yosemite. See May *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, June 8—Mini-trip to Redwood Regional Park. See May *Gull* for details.

Saturday/Sunday, June 11-12—Mono Basin. See May *Gull* for details.

Saturday/Sunday, June 11-12—Yuba Pass and Vicinity. On Saturday meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Yuba Pass Summit, 15 miles east of Sierra City. We will bird the mountain areas for summer residents including flycatchers, warblers and Calliope Hummingbirds.

On Sunday meet at 8:00 a.m. at the intersection of Highway 49 and 89, about 3 miles east of Sattley. We will caravan to Sierra Valley and see many of the birds of the eastern Sierra including Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy. 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy. 49 west to Yuba Summit. (Or take Hwy. 49 northeast from Auburn.) Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman campgrounds on Hwy. 49 (U. S. Forest Service). Lodging is available at Sierra City: Sierra Chalet (916-862-1110), Buttes Motel (916-862-1170), Herrington's Sierra Pines (916-862-1151), Basset Station Motel (916-862-1297), Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (916-862-1191), and Yuba River Inn (916-862-1122). Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). (✓)

Friday-Sunday, June 24-26—

Lassen Volcanic National Park. Join the Murphy family on the annual GGAS family camping excursion to Lassen. In past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker Williamson Sapsucker and most of the warblers and finches that breed in the mountains.

The more serious birders will meet at the Manzanita Lake Campgrounds store at 6:30 a.m. on Friday and Sunday. We will bird around the lake for 2-3 hours, return to camp for a quick breakfast and meet at the store for another outing at 10:30. On Friday we will hike one of Lassen's beautiful trails. This walk will be about 3 miles and paced for the convenience of our small children. (We may climb as much as 700 ft.) Sunday we will drive through the park, making frequent stops for birds, and end near the south entrance around 1:00 p.m.

Saturday is a special day for everyone. We will meet by the camp store at 7:30 a.m. and caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake. This all day excursion of about 100 miles will include a 2 to 3 hour swim at Lake Britton. If you forget your swimsuit, the trails at Burney Park offer a wonderful diversion. Fishermen can try their luck in some of northern California's finest trout streams. Since this is a long and tiring day we suggest a get-together for dinner at Uncle Runt's a true center of grilled gourmet cuisine.

Stop by our campsite for further information. We will have a campfire every evening beginning at 8:00 p.m. Bring your own chair, cup of wine (if you choose). We will provide hot water for tea or coffee. Check the camp-ground bulletin boards or the office at Doan's for our poster and campsite number, and any last minute changes in the schedule.

Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to pack a lunch and liquids. Suntan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing may also be necessary.

From the Bay Area, drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northwest entrance of Lassen. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available about 15 miles north of the Park at Doan's Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (916-335-2359). Other information can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral, CA 96063. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (564-0074). \$

Drivers with extra room in their cars are encouraged to carpool. Call Russ Wilson (524-2399). Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Trips marked with \$ go to areas that require an entrance fee.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

OBSERVATIONS

GGAS' Observations Editor Helen Green and her husband have been in Texas for the month birding. The next issue of *The Gull* will again have her report in a special two-month form.

Please continue to report your observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

GGAS IS LOOKING FOR A BETTER OFFICE

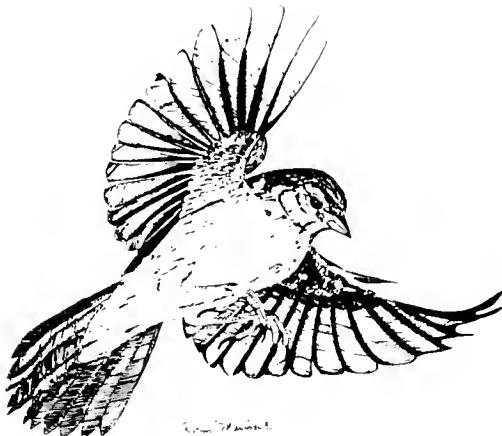
Every once in a while we wonder if we couldn't find a more suitable office space. Our financial position does not permit us to pay very much for rent. Do our members have any suggestion? Is there someone out there who would provide space as an educational/charitable tax deduction?

Our present 300 square feet barely accommodates a work space for office manager Barbara Ravenes, the computer, the copier and the library. When a volunteer comes in to help things are strained. And Committee or Board meeting discomfort discourages attendance. At the outset we had been assured that the meeting space at the Coop would be available, but changes in management have changed ground rules, and so we squeeze into #204.

GGAS PRESIDENT ELECT

Tom White, known to many of us as Program Chairman for the past year and President-elect of GGAS, is currently a teacher with the San Francisco Community College District specializing in English as a Second Language. He has done this for ten years since his return from service with the Peace Corps in Kenya.

Interested in birds as a youngster, Audubon member for ten years, he became more involved when he joined the Raptor Banding program sponsored by the GGNRA. He has birded in Brazil, Mexico and often in Arizona, where his parents live. He sees the activity of birding as a key to nature and a starting point of observation from which one can lose the strain of urban life.



CONSERVATION AWARDS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL VAN DE KAMP AND OUR OWN GEORGE PAYTON

Each year the Golden Gate Audubon Society presents two Conservation Awards. These awards are given to one non-GGAS member and to one chapter member in honor of their outstanding contributions to the Audubon cause, protecting and defending our natural world and the creatures that inhabit it.

This year we are pleased to give our out-of-chapter award to California's State Attorney General John K. Van de Kamp. The conservation movement has rarely had so eloquent and ardent an advocate in so critical a position. As Attorney General of California he has brought appropriate litigation to bear when no alternative remained. A very clear example, and of critical importance to GGAS, was the support and leadership of the Attorney General's Office in our Oakland Airport lawsuit, critical to the survival of our Alameda shorebirds. How rare, and how admirable, to have a public official who cares about wildlife.

Van de Kamp has also taken very strong positions and actions in support of the Coastal Commission, and to prevent oil leasing off our coast. John has

had an enviable record in terms of legislation. He is an active Attorney General. He is consistently taking the correct position on environmental bills. An environmental lobbyist in Sacramento has said that he only has to look at Van de Kamp's position to know which bills are good. The AG is willing to take the time to testify in person when important bills are on the line, and he has sponsored several important toxics bills (unfortunately, sometimes vetoed by our Governor.)

In all, John Van de Kamp more than deserves our Conservation Award for 1988. We know he will continue to earn it in years to come. Thank you Mr. Attorney General.

Our In-Chapter Award winner is George Peyton. George needs no introduction to many of us. George is, indeed, one of the most beloved members of our chapter. For years George has given unstintingly of his time and resources in furthering the Audubon Canyon Ranch, using his attorney's skills to save the day when Bolinas Lagoon was about to be turned into one huge marina. George has been instrumental in National Audubon's Mono Lake lawsuit. Without his efforts Mono Lake could well be a desert. George has served on the Board of the National Audubon Society, helping to determine the direction our parent organization took. Above all, for us, George has given more of his time, and joy of life, to our Chapter than anyone could hope for. It is the spirit and support that George brings to all of us active in the chapter, that helps us continue our fight for our natural world.

Speaking as one who knows George, I would like to express the opinion of the entire GGAS Board that without George GGAS would be a drier and much drearier organization. Thank you

George, for your support, legal and inspirational.

We invite all GGAS members to come and help celebrate the presentation of these awards on June 17, at our Richardson Bay Sanctuary at 7 PM.

CONSERVATION NOTES **1988 Audubon Priorities**

Western Regional chapter representatives voted at the recent Asilomar Conference to affirm the following as the top conservation priorities:

- 1) Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection
- 2) Old Growth Forest Protection
- 3) International Programs for Wildlife and Habitat
- 4) Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act/Acid Rain
- 5) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Protection

"These issues will guide Audubon's conservation planning in the west through 1989", said Glenn Olson, regional vice president. The western region, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii has 98 chapters and over 90,000 members.

GGAS RECOMMENDS PROP 70

The California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Bond Act, a statewide measure that will preserve California wildlife habitat and coastal and open space lands merits your vote. The measure has wide support. A few of the specific areas that will benefit from passage of Proposition 70 include:

- \$41 million to preserve land supporting endangered species.

- \$6 million to protect critical habitat areas for game birds and mammals, including routes of migration and breeding and nesting areas for the Sage Grouse.
- \$6 million to preserve specific endangered animals.
- \$79 million for additional wildlife lands throughout California.
- \$15 million for the protection of lands along rivers and streams.
- \$38 million to help preserve coastal and inland wetlands.
- \$30 million to protect key coastal areas.

Join the local campaign for the passage of Proposition 70, and of course, be sure to vote for it June 7.

HAZARDOUS WASTE LAWS

The California Dept. of Health Services had published a very useful brochure on this subject, sub-titled "A Citizen's Guide to Enforcement". It can be sent to you if you call the Berkeley office of the Dept. at 540-2043. To an important extent the law depends upon citizen participation in controlling this problem. There is an incentive for the citizen to be informed and alert to the possibility of illegal disposal. Persons who report a violation of the hazardous Waste Disposal Control Law may be eligible for a reward of up to \$5000. The brochure gives the information needed and precautions necessary to citizen participation, as well as the Waste Alert number, 800-25-ALERT.

INVITATION AND REMINDER

GGAS members interested in local conservation issues are invited to attend monthly meetings in either Berkeley or San Francisco. The next East Bay meeting is June 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the GGAS office. We'd be pleased to see you.

LETTER

Dear Fellow Auduboners:

This is a good time to thank all you hardworking Audubon members who helped qualify the California Park and Wildlife Initiative for the June ballot. Remember to vote YES on June 7 for Proposition 70—the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Act!

Bruce Walker
Regional Coordinator
Proposition 70



BACK YARD BIRDER

Imagine the Osprey as the “junk bird” of the day while bird watching! This could not have happened in the 1960's when Osprey numbers were small from the indiscriminate use of the pesticide DDT. With the banning of DDT in North America in 1972, this large bird has made a great comeback. And so, one weekend in March, as we drove south of Miami down the Florida Keys, the Osprey was the most seen (if not the most visible) bird of the day, on nests as well as in the air.

Despite its close resemblance to hawks and eagles, the Osprey is the only member of a separate family, *Pandionidae*. Taxonomists, who make these distinctions, found certain anatomical features that indicated the Osprey had been following its own evolutionary path for some time. Like its diurnal relatives, the Osprey has powerful, broad wings and a heavy hooked bill. However, its talons are unusually long (curved about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a circle) and its toes are of equal length, unlike other raptors. Their feet are equipped with scales and spines on the soles of their feet and the outer toe can be reversed to the rear, enabling the bird to more easily grasp slippery, struggling fish. (i.e. Like owls, 2 toes point forward and 2 point backward). Plumage is compact which helps blunt the impact of the bird's hitting the water and reduces wetting feathers.

At first glance, you might imagine you're seeing a Bald Eagle since the Osprey sports a largely white head. Closer examination shows a broad black mark through its cheeks and sides of the neck, and its bill is black. It spends most of its time perched on snags or rocks near water. When it is hunting, it flies 30-100' above water until it spies a

fish. Then it hovers with wings beating and legs trailing under the body before diving with tremendous speed into the water. Often it is submerged and rises with great effort from the water, hopefully grasping a fish. Once airborn it pauses to shake water from its feathers and to arrange the fish with its head pointed aerodynamically forward before heading to feed at its nest or its habitual perch. Osprey feed almost exclusively on fish, but if hungry will feed on small rodents, birds, snakes or frogs.

Osprey nests are awesome structures since they are often used for decades, being added to year after year. Adult birds snap off dead tree branches with their feet and also use driftwood, bones, and seaweed to construct these bulky platform-type nests, which can weigh up to mans' proximity and make good use of manmade structures as nesting sites. When standing trees near water are not available, they will use utility poles, channel markers, duck blinds, chimney tops and even billboards. Bird lovers in Massachusetts have attracted nesting Osprey by building platforms near water.

The female lays 2 to 4 eggs and does most of the incubating. Since she doesn't hunt during this time, the male feeds her. Both parents feed the hungry young, who fledge about 52 days after hatching. The young are fiercely defended by the parents.

The Osprey is one of the most widely-distributed birds in the world. It is found in Europe, Asia, North Africa, Australia and North America, where it breeds north of Baja California. Northern populations migrate to warmer climates in winter. I wonder how Osprey populations are doing world-wide? Thank goodness this exquisite bird is thriving in south Florida!

—MEG PAULETICH

THE TWO-PERCENT SOLUTION

It is lamentable that the candidates for president of the United States have said little about improving environmental quality while insuring economic health. No one should seek to be the most powerful leader in the world without articulating a vision about how to achieve both. No voter should permit a candidate to conduct a campaign without addressing these issues.

The next president of the United States should establish as a national goal the improvement of energy efficiency by two percent a year. This means that we should burn fewer energy units per dollar of Gross National Product in each successive year. The goal is clearly achievable. In 1973 we burned about 26 thousand BTUs of energy for every (1985) dollar of GNP. In 1985, the figure had been reduced to about 20 thousand BTUs. While our conservation measures have been significant and inflicted through the marketplace with only minor pain, we are far more inefficient than our trading partners or competitors. In Great Britain, BTU consumption per dollar of GNP is about 12 thousand and in Japan it is about 10. Stated differently, if the United States used energy as efficiently as Japan, we would cut our annual fuel bill by \$200 billion, allowing us to be more competitive on world markets. In contrast, the Soviets consume three times as much energy per dollar of output than the Japanese.

While the economic arguments for increased efficiency are compelling, the ecological case is even more vital. Energy production and use—especially the burning of fossil fuels—is a primary source of pollution. The more conservatively we burn coal and oil, the less acid rain and choking smog we produce. Also, according to the World-

watch Institute, a worldwide, two-percent increase in energy efficiency could help us avoid environmental catastrophe through the “greenhouse effect”—climate warming due to carbon dioxide buildup in the atmosphere.

The two-percent solution must be an important goal for the next president; it would help our economy and our environment. It is time for voters to demand that environmental and conservation goals be an important part of the presidential campaign.

—PETER A.A. BERLE

President, National Audubon Society

THE QUILT—AN UPDATE

As reported earlier, GGAS will be holding a drawing to raise funds for Bay Area wetlands protection with a grand prize of an exquisite Wetlands Quilt made by Helen Green and friends. It is now scheduled for November. We need more prizes to sweeten the pot and attract more people to the drawing. Can you, or do you know of anyone who can provide us with such worthy prizes as a case of wine, a hand-knit sweater, a library of birding books, a dinner for two at a special restaurant, or any product you or your business could donate?

If you have a skill, why not offer that. For example, expert birders could provide their expertise for a personal field trip to some lucky winner. All for a good cause. Please call Barbara Rivenes at 843-2222. We need to know soon in order to print our drawing tickets with prizes listed.

YUBA PASS FIELD STATION

Nature Sound Workshop

The Nature Sound Society has announced a special workshop on

“Natural Sound Field Recording” to be held June 17–19 in the Sierra. Experts will lead small group discussions and field demonstrations of technical equipment. The cost is \$110 for food, accommodations and materials. Information about the workshop can be had by phoning Susan Sherman at 824-7051.

Among those leading the sessions are Randy Thom, sound engineer for Lucas Films, Ken Martin, marine biologist and specialist in underwater sound recording, and Louis Baptista, ornithologist.

HELP WITH SEED SALES?

Somewhere out there among our dedicated members is a person (or persons) who is burning to learn everything there is to know about BIRD SEED SALES! Our two Seed Sales are very important to the chapter as fundraisers and as a resource for our members. We have a reasonably well developed formula for the sales, but sometimes balls get dropped and we forget details—like advanced publicity! We NEED a coordinator for our twice yearly sales. Someone to go through the steps and concentrate ONLY on the sales. It does not require countless hours, endless meetings or even much telephoning—and it's only twice a year! Is anyone out there listening to this plea and willing to pick up the gauntlet? Please call 843-2222.

SUPPORT BY PAYROLL DEDUCTION?

We need your help to make that happen. It is an easy way to give to your favorite charity, to make a tax-deductible contribution.

GGAS is participating in a workplace payroll deduction campaign conducted by the Environmental Federation of

California. We are looking for companies who are willing to hear about the EFC, ones who might consider offering to their employees a choice in payroll deduction giving.

If you are lucky enough to work at Esprit, Kaiser Permanente, East Bay Regional Parks District, Patagonia, the U. S. Government, the State of California, the City of San Francisco and the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, or Marin you already have this option. If you work someplace else and would like the option to choose GGAS—or perhaps some other environmental organization—as the recipient of your workplace contribution, let us know. With your help we can make this happen. Call Barbara at the GGAS office, 843-2222, to get started.

If we as a chapter introduce a new employer into the Federation, GGAS will receive all the undeclared benefits the first year.

This program can benefit all of us. Employees feel good—about their giving and about their company. Overall giving increases when there is a choice, so other campaigns win too. AND the environment is protected. What more can we ask?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

In the field from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. our San Francisco and East Bay Blitz Birdathon teams saw lots of birds. On a cool, blustery day in San Francisco, leader Dan Murphy and flock of nine hearty souls saw 99 species—all documented for those who still want to pledge.

The weather was better in the East Bay, where team leaders David Rice and Lina Prairie led their group of twenty-two to 150 species. The well-publicized lunch stop was very

delightful, thanks to George Peyton, and did not lead to seeing double the number of birds.

Again it's not too late to pledge on behalf of the Birdathon—half goes to the Mono Lake litigation and half to S. F. Bay wetlands!

CHANGING TIMES

Last month we were all scurrying around finding one cent, two cent and three cent stamps to meet the increased postage. Well, GGAS finds that the Second Class postage rate increased 50% and we are planning to change to a Special Non-profit mailing status. Our choices are under investigation.

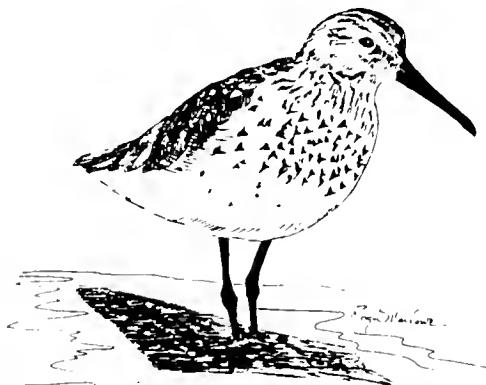
For those Audubon members of other chapters who subscribe to *The Gull*, a rate increase from the present \$8 is necessary. The new rate will be \$10 effective July 1988.

HELP AT ACR IN JUNE

This will be your last call to experience hosting at Audubon Canyon Ranch one weekend day this year. Hosting is great fun and a pleasant way to meet fellow birders and nature-lovers and share some of your knowledge. The ACR staff sincerely appreciates the time our chapter members spend as hosts and we consider it a privilege to help. Our hosting month is June and please call 843-2222 to reserve one weekend day that month to spend at the Ranch.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH DOCENTS

Our ranch on Bolinas Lagoon is accepting docent applications for the 1988-89 season. Docents lead school groups through the unique facility, where the Great Blue Heron and Great Egret return every year to nest and



breed. A wildlife refuge and education and research center, ACR operates one of the oldest docent programs in the state and has become a model for many organizations involved in outdoor education. For information phone Edris Cole at 868-9244. Training begins in September.

Docent trainees gain knowledge and field experience during the training course with renowned experts from the fields of marine biology, ornithology, entomology, botany, and outdoor education. The docents become skilled in Bay Area natural history, along with newt catching, lizard spotting, spider identification, story telling and poison oak avoidance.

For some young visitors, the three-hour visit to ACR is their first experience touching a newt, looking for a pack rat's nest, or watching a heron parent feed its young.

OAKLAND MUSEUM DOCENT CALL

A new series of docent training classes in the Natural Sciences will begin in September 1988 at the Oakland Museum. Anyone interested in learning more about the docent program and the new training class is invited to telephone the Docent Office at 273-3514 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

INTERESTED IN BIRDS OF PREY

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory is a volunteer group dedicated to study the migration of more than ten thousand birds of prey over the Marin Headlands each fall. During Spring 1988 we are recruiting hawkwatchers and banders to volunteer twice a month from August through December 1988. To volunteer call the GGRO at 331-0730.

AUDUBON ON PBS

The PBS summer season of Audubon Specials starts on Sunday, June 26, at 8 p.m. and runs every Sunday for eight weeks to August 14.

- June 26—Grizzly and Man
- July 3—Panthers and Cheetahs
- July 10—Wood Stork
- July 17—Whales!
- July 24—Messages From the Birds
- July 31—Galapagos
- August 7—Farming and Wildlife
- August 14—Ducks under Siege

AUDUBON ON CABLE

The newest Audubon Special to air on national television, "Messages From the Birds", narrated by Martin Sheen, is about birds as indicators of environmental degradation and has a special focus on shorebirds. It premieres on Superstation TBS on June 6 at 10 p.m. and repeats on PBS July 24.

FREMONT BIRDING CLASSES Summer Series

A "BIRDING FIELD TRIPS CLASS" designed for both beginners and experienced birders, and perhaps of special interest to teachers or others unable to attend weekday classes during the regular school

year, is offered by the Fremont Adult School. Each Tuesday morning the class will visit a different top birding spot to observe and learn about field identification, life-styles and ecology of local birds. The class will be taught by Alice Hoch, meets on six Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. beginning June 14 and ending July 19. Classes end at 12:30 p.m. The registration will be at the first class. It will meet in Room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave. Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that morning. Bring field guides if possible.

POINT LOBOS BIRDS AND FLOWERS

This one day outing on Saturday, June 25, requires pre-registration by June 21 and a fee of \$16.25. Come in person or mail a check and self-addressed stamped envelope to the Adult School at 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538.

Alice Hoch will lead this trip, timed to coincide with the height of nesting activity of the Brandt's Cormorants there.

The class will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the flagpole at the Adult School and end at 3 p.m. at Pt. Lobos. Those who wish to meet the group at Pt. Lobos should call the instructor at 657-0475. Bring lunch, liquids, snacks and binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes.

TOUGH BIRDS

Audubon Activists are tough on issues! They read the Audubon Activist bimonthly newsjournal to stay on top of crucial environmental issues. They get *Action Alerts* from Audubon's Washington, D.C., office when an issue needs their immediate help. They write to their Representatives and/or Senators to promote the conservationist's cause.

They call the *Audubon Hotline* for up to the minute news. They eat their vegetables.

You can become one of the Tough Birds today. Join the growing Activist Network. Write for a free sample copy and order form: Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

GGAS FARALLON TRIP

Again this year GGAS will sponsor a boat trip to circle the Farallon islands. Past trips have produced sightings of Tufted Puffins, shearwaters, albatross, Hump-backed Whales and several species of marine mammals.

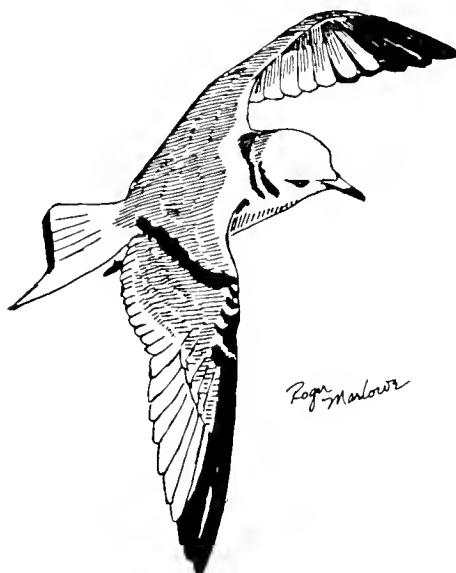
The date is July 10. Reservations can be made by mailing \$28 per person with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to GGAS, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, please.

Space for the planned trip is limited and will be filled on a first come first served basis. We plan an early morning departure from the Emeryville Marine.

CORDELL BANK PELAGIC TRIP

Roger Marlowe, who has contributed drawings of birds that appear in *The GULL* this month, is also field trip chairman for Madrone Audubon. He has a trip scheduled for October for which GGAS members and friends can make reservations. The cost for the trip is \$40 and reservations can be made by phone, evenings at (707) 829-0705.

The trip will leave from Tide's Wharf in Bodega Bay at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, 1988. It will be a great time for pelagic seabirds. Expected are Blackfooted Albatross, numerous



species of shearwater, Alcids, possible Jaegers and with luck, storm petrels. Marine mammals fairly regular in the area include Humpback and Blue Whale, White Sided Dolphins, Dalls and Harbor Porpoise and several species of Pinnipeds. Bring extra warm clothing, lunch, binoculars, and rain-gear or poncho. Send your check to Roger Marlowe, 401 Vine Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472.

TWO STUNNING GGAS TRIPS

Steve Howell will be taking time out from his major work, a vastly updated and improved new **FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO**, to lead two trips to Central America in 1989 for GGAS. He will be assisted by Lina Jane Prairie. A new tour is being offered that features a week in the Yucatan, Mexico, and a week in Tikal, Guatemala February 10-26. Also, the popular tour of Costa Rica's national parks and biological research stations is planned for March 24-April 9.

In order to make group reservations, such as at La Selva Field Station and

Corcovada National Park it is necessary that you sign up for these trips as soon as possible. We will take 10-12 participants, maximum. Detailed itineraries will be available in July. Please give the office (843-2222) or Lina (549-3187, evenings after 6/24) a call if you are interested. Signing up for a birdwatching trip in the tropics is a terrific way to support GGAS!

NEW FROM GGAS

Early this month our publication **BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA—An Annotated Field List**, by Guy McCaskie, et al, will be available in a new edition. While the basic text is the same, an index and a supplement have been added, and it comes in a blue cover. The price will be \$6.00.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach (415) 868-9244
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education
Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone,
Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chairman

Eighty active ACR docents have provided natural history field trips at Bouverie Preserve for 1800 third to fifth graders this spring. Most are from schools in Sonoma County.

Each class has one hour of orientation from a Bouverie docent at school prior to visiting the preserve. The teacher is given a packet of suggestions for pre- and post-trip activities. Groups of six children with a chaperone and a docent learn about adaptation, the water cycle, conservation and the food chain.

The Bolinas Preserve will be open until July 10 this year.

PUBLICLY OWNED OPEN SPACE

People for Open Space has issued an interesting study of the Bay Area Counties' publicly owned open space. The study is supported by a computer database which is updated to maintain a current source of information. Copies of the print-out are available (\$14.50) and a large map, suitable for public presentations, may be borrowed from People for Open Space, (415) 543-4291.

Inquiries and suggestions are welcomed.

As the region's population increases and as outdoor activities grow in popularity, the need for parks, protected watersheds, for secure wildlife habitat, and for open space buffers between communities expands as well. These are matters it behooves us all to be familiar with, and to be prepared to speak out in defense of increasing open space protection.

The public owns more than 710,000 acres of open land in the nine-county Bay Area, about 16% of the total land acreage. The agencies with the largest holdings are the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation (144,132 in nine counties), National Park Service (92,998 in four counties), San Francisco Water Dept. (62,375 in four counties), East Bay Regional Park Dist. (56,375 in two counties) and the Bureau of Land Management (49,956 in four counties). Publicly owned lands are used primarily for parks and recreation (56%), water supply is second (18%), while plant and animal habitat uses account for 14%. Flood control, rangeland, scientific study and historical and cultural preservation uses are also included. Ownership is 28% State of California, 26% Federal agencies, 21% special districts, 17% is by counties, 6% by cities and 3% by private non-profit land conservation groups. Marin County has the highest amount of publicly owned open space per inhabitant.

County	Acres in Public Lands	County Acres Total	County Population (7-1-87)	% in the Public Lands
Alameda	91,195	488,700	1,227,400	19
Contra Costa	75,768	480,111	743,900	16
Marin	144,858	344,300	227,700	42
Napa	57,403	508,900	105,200	11
San Francisco	6,789	30,300	741,600	22
San Mateo	64,295	297,295	623,500	22
Santa Clara	167,203	854,200	1,421,600	20
Solano	43,650	546,800	298,000	8
Sonoma	61,157	1,042,500	345,500	6
Nine Counties	712,318	4,594,300	5,743,400	16%

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

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YES, count me in for the annual meeting at The Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Friday, June 17 (7-9 p.m.). My check for \$_____ is enclosed for _____ person(s). (\$7.50 per person).

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
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The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.